

Application No.: 10/501,806

Filing Date: July 20, 2004

Page: 5

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing products in web form comprising

- (i) first applying a coating ~~mass~~ onto a surface of a transfer support web,
- (ii) subsequently ~~thermally treating~~ drying the composite of transfer support web and coating,
- (iii) adjusting the humidity of the dried composite of transfer support web and coating to about 20 to 60 %.
- (iii) then applying an intermediate support material on the humidity adjusted coating, and
- (v) finally separating the composite of intermediate support layer and humidity adjusted coating from the transfer support web, and
- (vi) winding up and storing the composite of intermediate support layer and coating,

wherein the transfer support web is ~~an endless-loop~~ reusable.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the transfer support web comprises a solid material ~~such as~~ selected from (i) a polymer material, ~~or~~ or (ii) a composite material of paper with a polymer layer, ~~on top of~~ or (iii) a metal foil, or (iv) a composite material of metal and polymer film.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the endless-loop used as~~ the transfer support web has a uniform thickness over its total length.

Application No.: 10/501,806

Filing Date: July 20, 2004

Page: 6

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the coating is prepared by mixing its ingredients in an aqueous medium.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the coating is applied to the transfer support web in a coating station by a casting method or a reverse coating method in a thickness in the range of from 10 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. (Canceled) Please cancel Claim 6.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein the ~~thermal treatment~~ drying is performed in a hot air chamber at temperatures in the range of from 40 to 120 °C.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7 wherein the ~~thermal treatment~~ drying is performed at temperatures in the range of from 50 to 100 °C.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~thermally treated~~ humidity adjusted composite comprising the coating and the transfer support web are fed to a ~~laminating~~ or cooling device, where an intermediate support material coming from a storage roll is applied onto the coating.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate support material is fixed with a strip of an adhesive ~~at the starting point~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate support material comprises paper ~~or paper-like material~~, cardboard, or polymer film.

Application No.: 10/501,806

Filing Date: July 20, 2004

Page: 7

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the separated transfer support web is fed to a regeneration station, wherein regeneration of the transfer support web is performed.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein the regeneration of the transfer support web comprises at least mechanical treatment removal of adhering foreign particles and vacuum cleaning of the mechanically treated transfer support web.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the regeneration is combined with a wet or chemical decontamination comprising washing the transfer film with clear water or organic solvent or cleaning it with detergents and drying it in hot air.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 12, wherein the regenerated transfer support web is immediately recirculated to the coating station, to be applied again with the coating.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 12, wherein the regenerated transfer support web is first wound up and after storage recirculated again to the coating station, to be applied again with the coating.

17. (Currently Amended) A device for performing a method for producing products in web form comprising

(i) a transfer support web

(ii) at least a coating station (1) to coat the transfer support web.

(iii) a heating device to dry the coating on the transfer support web

Application No.: 10/501,806

Filing Date: July 20, 2004

Page: 8

(iii) a laminating- or cooling station (3) applying an intermediate support material onto the dried coating.

(iv) separating rolls (4, 5, 6, 7) to separate the transfer support web from the intermediate support material/coating/transfer support web laminate and

(v) a regeneration station (9) for [[a]] the separated transfer support web, wherein the transfer support web is an endless coil.

18. (Canceled) Please cancel Claim 18.

19. (New) A method for producing products according to Claim 1, wherein the coating consists essentially of organic raw materials and optional additives.

20. (New) A method for producing products according to Claim 19, wherein the organic raw material is selected from polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, a cellulose derivative, polyvinyl acetate, polyethylene glycol, alginate, carrageenan, xanthan, gelatin, mixtures thereof or copolymers thereof.